REGISTER OF CLASSIFICATION DECISIONS

Date of entry in Register:	21 August 1995
Name of applicant/court:	Elizabeth Maree O'Loughlin
Applicant to the Labelling Body:	Not Applicable
Title of Publication:	Mapplethorpe
Other Known Titles:	Not Stated
Director:	Not Applicable
Producer:	Not Applicable
Publisher:	Electa, 1992
Author:	Germano Celant
Format:	Book
Country of Origin:	Italy / USA
Language:	English

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Components of film originally examined: Not Applicable.

Feature:	Running time:
Trailers:	Running time:
	Total Running time:

Excision/Alteration: No

Reasons(s) for Excision:

Not Applicable.

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Classification Decision:

Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 18 years.

Display conditions:

Section 27

Either

That when the publication is on public display, the classification given to the publication must be shown on the publication, or any package in which the publication is kept

and

That the publication must be publicly displayed only in a sealed package.

Or

That when the publication is on public display, the classification given to the publication must be shown on the publication

and

That the publication must be publicly displayed only in premises set aside for the public display of restricted publications (whether or not articles other than restricted publications are also displayed in those premises).

Descriptive Note:

Not Applicable.

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Direction to issue a label has been given on: Not Applicable.

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SUMMARY OF THE REASONS FOR DECISION:

The book, *Mapplethorpe*, presents a selection of the œuvre of photographer Robert Mapplethorpe. Introducing the catalogue of photographs, the author, Germano Celant, provides an interpretive text, analysing and contextualising the works.

A substantial body of the works contained in the book present nudity, sexual activity and themes such as sadomasochism. The subjects which are represented in the photographs, or discussed in the text, are considered under the relevant criteria.

In the catalogue section of the book there are two photographs of young girls who are presented in states of nakedness. These photographs are of concern, due to the predominantly sexual nature of the themes in the artist's work. The issue is discussed under s3(2)(a) and under s3(3)(b), and the photographs are decided to be subjects of portraiture rather than of sexual representation, thus the children's nudity is not interpreted as being sexually exploitative.

Due to the explicit nature of the occasional photographs presenting sexual activity, as well as the complex adult theme of homosexual sadomasochistic practice, which is photographically represented in the artist's work, and contextualised and interpreted by the author, the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 18 years.

To avoid access to the publication being given to those under 18 years of age when the publication is on public display, the classification given to the publication must be shown on the publication or any package in which the publication is kept.

The front cover of the book is not considered to be likely to offend reasonable members of the public. However, once open, the book presents explicit displays of nudity, with a particular focus on males' genitals, depictions of explicit sexual activity and sadomasochistic representations. This content is considered likely to be offensive to reasonable members of the public by the general standards of acceptability. To avoid the offense likely to be caused to reasonable members of the public by inadvertent exposure to such explicit material in public places, the publications must be publicly displayed only in a sealed package, *or*, the publications or any advertising poster relating to the publications, or both, must be publicly displayed only in premises set aside for the public display of restricted publications (whether or not articles other than restricted publications are also displayed in those premises).

OFLC Ref: 9501017